

# Officials Discourage Residents From Re-Occupying Homes, Businesses

Officials in Pierre and Fort Pierre say flood-threatened areas of the communities remain unsafe. Residents are discouraged from re-occupying homes and businesses in those areas at this time.

## **Potential risks from the current 150,000 cfs releases from the Oahe Dam are:**

- Possible failure of the levee system. This could send a high volume of water into the dry side of the levee, quickly inundating low-lying areas.
- A significant rain event may cause flooding of low lying areas. Storm sewers are plugged to prevent floodwaters from backing up into the system.
- Standing water and potential sewage backup create significant health risks from mold and bacteria.
- The possibility that utilities such as water and electricity will be shut off.
- The current voluntary evacuation policy is based on 150,000 cfs. This could change if the snowmelt or a rain event brings more water than expected into the system.
- Residents are asked not to remove any sandbag walls until releases from the Oahe Dam are reduced.

**Residents who choose to move back into their homes or businesses in spite of safety concerns are asked to notify local authorities and to be prepared to leave again quickly.**

